

gathering printer configuration data from a printer at a printer port;

monitoring the incoming printer configuration data for changes;

recognizing the changes in configuration data;

waking an installed server print driver and alerting the server print driver of changes in configuration data to allow the print driver to convert the summarized data to an internal format; and,

saving the changes in configuration data as summarized data in a spooler registry.

2. (deleted)

6. (amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the waking operation is executed by transmitting a print driver event API defined by a computer Operating System.

8. (amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the client and server have the same operating system print spooling characteristics .

15. (amended) A system to output printed documents comprising:  
a printer to output convert electronic signals into a printed document, the printer having a configuration state that corresponds to a particular period in time;

a first client device that receives an input and transmits print signals to define a document to be printed on the printer, the first client including a local print registry that maintains the configuration states of the printer;

a second client device that receives a second input and transmits print signals to define a second document to be printed on the printer;

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a print server coupled to the first client device and the second client device, the print server including a print server registry that maintains the configuration states of the printer; and,

software running on the print server, the software including a first code section that periodically polls the printer and compares results from the poll to the server registry to determine changes in configuration states, the software further including a second code section that transmits the changes in configuration states to the first client device and the second client device.

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18. (amended) The system of claim 15 wherein the print server runs software that conforms to a computer operating system and uses a pipe server thread that transfer the changes in configuration states from the printer to the client device.

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21. (amended) The system of claim 15 wherein the print server operates a first operating system and the second client device operates a second operating system that uses the server print registry as a local registry.